

Morning Highlights

June 4, 2009
Morning Highlights 2009-04

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Report Fires: 1-800-237-3633

Fire Activity Overview



Photo: The Ladue River Fire (currently 7,000 acres). Maggie Rogers

The above photo shows the smoke column that was visible beyond the Tok school on June 2. The fire is roughly 45 miles NE of town. Tok is located in an ecosystem that is very fire prone. Pro-active measures have been taken to create defensible space around the school. The vegetation that has been removed is being chipped and stored (shown in the foreground) for a boiler that will one day provide the school's primary heat. Alaskans are encouraged to follow the example and prepare their homes and property for wildland fires prior to an emergency.

Multiple fires are burning in the eastern portion of the state and Canada and smoke has drifted into the interior. Information about smoke impacts is found at: <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/smokemain.htm>. The fires on the Alaska side of the border are not staffed but are under close watch and being flown regularly by fire personnel.

WEATHER OUTLOOK

The eastern portion of Alaska is warm and dry. Red Flag Warnings (RFWs) are in effect until this evening for low humidities in the Copper River Basin, and until 1 p.m. for strong winds in the Deltana and Tanana Flats, Denali, and northeastern slopes of

the eastern Alaska Range. The RFWs mean that weather conditions may lead to extreme fire behavior on existing or new fires. They are issued by the National Weather Service and current information may be found at: <http://firewx.arh.noaa.gov/warnings.php>. There is a burn suspension in the Tok area; please contact your local Division of Forestry office for specific burn permit information.

FIRES

Two new fires were reported Wednesday to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center. One fire is out, the other contained. So far this year, a total of 203 fires have burned 113,917 acres statewide. Additional information is found at: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf>

There are 36 active fires in Alaska. One fire is currently staffed:

Broken Snowshoe (#164)→ 25,345 acres: Located 3.5 miles north of McGrath, the fire was at last report 41-percent contained. Firefighters worked on the south, southeast and southwest portion of the fires edge Wednesday, mopping-up to 300 feet inside the burn. The fire has been remapped and the adjusted acreage is 25,345 acres.

The land ownership percentage ratio affected by the fire is: State owned land at 85% (21,544 acres), MTNT owned land at 11% (2,788 acres) and Doyon owned land at 4% (1,013 acres).

A total of 252 people have been staffing the fire which includes nine fire crews. Three crews returned home on Wednesday, as well as two helicopters. Two additional crews will be released today. By Friday, June 5, 2009, there will be four crews and a Type 3 incident management organization in place. Suppression efforts will continue with containment objectives on the fires edge.

Additional References

- Alaska Interagency Coordination Center: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/>
 - Map of Current Fires: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php>
 - Situation Report: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf>
 - National Fire Situation: <http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf>
 - Guide to Wildland Fire Suppression in AK: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/news/flash/Media%20Guide%20to%20AK%20Wildland%20Fire%20Suppression.pdf>
- Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group- Education and Reference Materials: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/awfcg.php>
- Creating Defensible Space: <http://firewise.org/> and <http://forestry.alaska.gov/pdfs/06Firewise.pdf>
- Department of Transportation (Road Closure Info): (907) 451-2240, <http://511.alaska.gov/>
Alaska Division of Forestry (Burn Permit Info): <http://forestry.alaska.gov/burn/>
- Department of Environmental Conservation (Smoke Concerns): <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm>
- National Parks Service: <http://www.nps.gov/akso/Fire/firehome.htm>
- National Weather Service: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/>
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife: <http://www.fws.gov/fire/>

- USDA Forest Service: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/>
- Anchorage Fire Department: www.muni.org/fire
- Temporary Flight Restriction Information: <http://airspace.nifc.gov/mapping/nifc/>
- Federal Aviation Administration: <http://www.faa.gov/>

AICC Morning Highlights is compiled by Maggie Rogers (Alaska Division of Forestry) and Doug Stockdale (BLM Alaska Fire Service).

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